

welcome was expressed by honoring me, one of the youngest of our number, with the highest position within your gift, that of your presiding officer.

Our session opened after one of the most bitter and hotly contested political campaigns ever known in Maryland. As the result of this fierce struggle, nearly one-half of our time has been consumed in the discussion of what might be aptly termed political questions, as contra-distinguished from those measures usually presented for the consideration of Legislative Assemblies. Having, therefore, practically, for the purposes of general legislation, had but one-half of the period prescribed in the Constitution for our sitting, it cannot but be a source of pride and gratification to us all, that we have most thoroughly completed our labors in this department. The severe and unremitting labor exacted of you to accomplish this end, will be appreciated by all who have ever had any connection with law-making assemblies.

Our work is done. The people are to judge whether or not it has been well done.

In entering upon the discharge of the duties of the position, which by your kindness I now occupy, I frankly stated that I had great misgivings as to my ability, properly to fill so delicate and responsible an office. That my fears were well founded, you were doubtless soon convinced. And yet, so considerate and indulgent have you been on all occasions, as to leave me unconscious of many mistakes, which I feel I must necessarily have committed.

How well I have kept the promises made in my opening address, you, gentlemen, are the best judges. Your verdict you have to-day rendered; it has been that which I have long'd for, hoped for. And now that it has been recorded, I trust I will not be regarded as too exultant in proclaiming this as the triumph of my life.

Sorrow and grief have entered some of our hearts during the progress of the session. Death has visited our hearths, and stricken down those whom we most dearly loved. I have been called upon to mourn the loss of an only sister, and soon return to a home from which the brightest light has been extinguished. Our own roll has not been diminished. Those who came so pleasantly together, for the first time in this Hall, are all spared by a most merciful Providence to answer to their names to-night.

I cannot sever our official relations, without returning my thanks to the officers of this House for the manner in which they have discharged their several duties, and especially com-